



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 10, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

On April 20, 2006, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed into law the most comprehensive set of high school graduation requirements in the nation called the *Michigan Merit Curriculum*. This law is a result of an extraordinary partnership between Governor Granholm, State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Legislature and numerous education associations who together worked to better prepare students for greater success and to secure the economic future of our state.

As a result, a high school diploma in Michigan will soon say a lot more about the graduate whose name it bears. It will tell employers that our students have mastered the reading, writing and math skills required for success in our workplace. It will tell college and university admissions officers and career and technical schools the student is ready for the rigors of post-secondary education. It will tell the world that Michigan is developing the highly-educated workforce employers are seeking and drive Michigan's economic revival into the 21st century.

Our future as a state is sitting in our classrooms. If we want our children to find good jobs and stay in Michigan, we must be able to attract and retain employers. The key is education. Courses once thought optional for students, now need to be taught to all.

In preparation for implementation of the new high school graduation requirements the Michigan Department of Education has developed and is releasing the first group of course/credit content expectations and guidelines required or listed as options in the *Michigan Merit Curriculum*. They provide educators with a clear understanding of what students should know and be able to do for high school credit and represent what educators world wide believe are important for students. These learning expectations and guidelines also provide an important tool to develop and align classroom instruction. Science High School Content Expectations, Visual, Performing and Applied Arts as well as Online Guidelines are pending State Board of Education approval.

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The Course/Credit Content Expectations and Guidelines are the result of the dedicated work of numerous classroom teachers, curriculum specialists and administrators from intermediate and local school districts around the state, as well as representatives from professional organizations, higher education and Michigan Department of Education staff.

Attached is the Michigan Merit Curriculum Content Expectations, Course/Credit Expectations and Guidelines completion schedule for your information and use. To provide easy access, these important documents will be posted on the Michigan Department of Education website as they are completed at [www.michigan.gov/highschool](http://www.michigan.gov/highschool).

We encourage you to celebrate all that has been accomplished during this past year to support the implementation of our new *Michigan Merit Curriculum*. Your expertise, dedication, and passion will guarantee the successful and meaningful preparation of students for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Flanagan  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

## Michigan Merit Curriculum Completion Schedule for High School Class of 2011

Total Number of Credits	Required Course/Credit Expectations (CCEs) & Course/Credit Guidelines (CCGs) being Developed by MDE	CCE Options being Developed by MDE	Course/Credit Release Date	High School Content Expectations Completion/ Release Date
<b>4 Credits</b>	<b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS</b>			<b>April 2006</b>
	English 9, 10		<b>August 2006</b>	
	English 11,12		<b>December 2006</b>	
<b>4 Credits</b>	<b>MATHEMATICS</b>			<b>April 2006</b>
	Algebra I		<b>August 2006</b>	
	Algebra II		<b>August 2006</b>	
	Geometry		<b>August 2006</b>	
	Plus 1 additional credit in senior year	Precalculus	<b>August 2006</b>	
		Statistics & Probability	<b>August 2006</b>	
		Integrated Math	<b>September 2006</b>	
<b>3 Credits</b>	<b>SCIENCE</b>		<b>DRAFT August 2006 Pending Board Approval</b>	
	Biology		<b>August 2006</b>	
	Chemistry or Physics		<b>August 2006</b>	
	Plus 1 additional credit	Earth Science	<b>August 2006</b>	
<b>3 Credits</b>	<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>			<b>July 2007</b>
	Civics		<b>July 2007</b>	
	Economics		<b>July 2007</b>	
	US History & Geography		<b>July 2007</b>	
	World History & Geography		<b>July 2007</b>	
<b>1 Credit</b>	<b>VISUAL, PERFORMING AND APPLIED ARTS (Guidelines)</b>		<b>DRAFT August 2006 Pending Board Approval</b>	
<b>1 Credit</b>	<b>PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (Guidelines)</b>		<b>2006-2007</b>	
Local Decision	<b>ONLINE EXPERIENCE (Guidelines)</b>		<b>DRAFT August 2006 for Public Comment</b>	
<b>2 Credits in Grades 9-12 or Equivalent K-12 Experience</b>	<b>LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE) Beginning with Class of 2016 (Guidelines)</b>		<b>July 2007</b>	